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(12) EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(21) Application number: 89302106.3

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(54) Method and system for displaying a user interface on a computer screen.

(57) Customized screens are generated in accordance with the invention for interfacing with an application program in an information processing system. During a panel definition phase when a panel designer creates a customized panel, panel actions are selected from a default list of panel operations and commands, including searching, adding, changing or deleting data from a database, showing long fields, blanking out a panel, displaying a prior panel, and printing. The actions are specified in a pop-up window during panel definition. Mnemonics and function keys may be specified for each action. The invention dynamically creates pull-down windows based on the actions specified which become part of the panel interface available to the run time user from an application action bar. Users may select actions to interact with the panel in like manner to interaction with other portions of the application user interface by means of cursor selection, input of the action number, mnemonics, or activation of a function key. Also during panel d sign a custom word or phrase for the panel action may be specified for subsequent display in the pull-down windows during run time. A mode such as Add data or Change data is specified for each selected panel action item during panel definition. During panel run time, and after selection of an execution mode, panel actions pull-down windows previously thereby designed may be displayed. A list of only those panel actions previously selected in the panel actions design pop-up window corresponding to the execution mode selected appears.

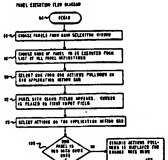

FIG. 11

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 89 30 2106

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.4)
A	EP-A-0243671 (WANG LABORATORIES INC.) * the whole document * ---	1, 17	G06F3/023 G06F9/44 G06F15/40
A	2nd IEEE Conference on Computer Workstation March 1988, Santa Clara, CA, USA pages 102 - 110; D. R. Kuokka et al.: "The Dante application interface" * the whole document * ---	1, 17	
A	IBM SYSTEMS JOURNAL. vol. 26, no. 2, 1987, ARMONK, NEW YORK US pages 201 - 214; P. Halpern et al.: "An incidence-matrix-driven panel system for the IBM PC" * the whole document * ---	1, 17	
A	IBM TECHNICAL DISCLOSURE BULLETIN. vol. 28, no. 10, March 1986, NEW YORK US pages 4369 - 4370; "Application generator for a personal computer" * the whole document * -----	1, 17	

TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)

G06F

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims

Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner
BERLIN	13 NOVEMBER 1990	DURAND, J

CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS

X : particularly relevant if taken alone
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A : technological background
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P : intermediate document

T : theory or principle underlying the invention
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D : document cited in the application
L : document cited for other reasons

& : member of the same patent family, corresponding document

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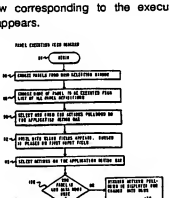

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